



Public Hearing – March 8, 2022
Energy & Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Katie S. Dykes

H.B. No. 5325 - An Act Requiring the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to Make Recommendations Regarding Hydropower

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5325 - An Act Requiring the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to Make Recommendations Regarding Hydropower**.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) appreciates the opportunity to hear what members of the Committee want DEEP to focus on in its development of the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES). As part of its CES, DEEP examines future energy needs in the state and identifies opportunities to reduce costs for ratepayers, ensure reliable energy availability, and mitigate public health and environmental impacts of Connecticut's energy use. This analysis includes looking at resources used to power the electric sector, particularly zero carbon resources that can be used to meet our economywide greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in Section 22a-200a of the General Statutes. Hydropower is one of several zero carbon resources that can help meet this need. DEEP also plans to consider the potential ecosystem impacts on migratory fish passage as it considers how hydropower could contribute to Connecticut's energy strategy. As DEEP includes all existing resources in its analysis, it will include in-state hydropower. DEEP would be happy to focus a portion of the CES specifically on in-state hydropower.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Harrison Nantz at Harrison.Nantz@ct.gov.